

SUBSISTENCE FISHERY

Emergency Order

ALASKA DEPARTMENT
OF FISH & GAME

Under Authority of AS 16.05.060

Emergency Order No. 3-RS-08-02

Issued at: Glennallen,
Tuesday, July 09, 2002

Effective Date: 12:01 A.M. Tuesday, July 9, 2002

Expiration Date: December 31, 2002
Unless superseded by subsequent emergency
order.

EXPLANATION:

This emergency order rescinds Emergency Order 3-RS-07-02 issued on July 1, and establishes the schedule for July 9 – August 31 2002 for the Chitina Subdistrict subsistence dip net salmon fishery. The Chitina Subdistrict will be open from 12:01 A.M. Monday July 15 until 11:59 P.M. Saturday August 31. Prior to August 31, fishing time may be decreased by emergency order depending on the actual sonar counts at Miles Lake. After August 31, the fishery will remain open, by regulation, through September 30.

Salmon may be taken in the Chitina Subdistrict during the following time periods as established by emergency order (periods in **bold** indicate current openings):

Wednesday July 10, 8:00 A.M. to Sunday July 14, 11:59 P.M.
Monday July 15, 12:01 A.M. to Saturday August 31, 11:59 P.M.

REGULATION:

Consistent with the COPPER RIVER SUBSISTENCE SALMON FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PLAN, 5 AAC 01.647 (k),

“In the Chitina Subdistrict of the Upper Copper River District, the subsistence salmon fishery shall be managed as follows:

- (1) the commissioner shall establish a preseason schedule, including fishing times, for the period June 1 through August 31 based on daily projected sonar counts at the sonar counter located near Miles Lake; this abundance based preseason schedule will distribute the harvest throughout the season;*
- (2) the commissioner may close, by an emergency order effective June 1, the Chitina Subdistrict subsistence salmon fishing season and shall reopen the season, by emergency order, on or before June 11, depending on the strength and timing of the sockeye salmon run; adjustments shall be made to the preseason schedule based on actual sonar counts compared to the projected counts; if the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is greater than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close the season by emergency order and immediately reopen it during which additional fishing times shall be established; if the actual sonar count at Miles Lake is less than the projected sonar count, the commissioner shall close the season by emergency*

order and immediately reopen it, during which fishing times shall be reduced by a corresponding percentage;”

The Chitina Subdistrict will be open from 12:01 A.M. Monday July 15 until 11:59 P.M. Saturday August 31. Prior to August 31, fishing time may be decreased by emergency order depending on the actual sonar counts at Miles Lake. After August 31, the fishery will remain open, by regulation, through September 30.

Frank Rue
Commissioner

by delegation to: _____

Tom Taube
Area Management Biologist

JUSTIFICATION:

The cumulative count of fish passing the sonar for the period July 1 – 7 was 101,070 salmon, whereas the projected cumulative count during this period was 53,642 salmon. Since the actual numbers of fish passing the sonar are above the projected, the opening for the period July 15 – 21 is increased by 56 hours to provide additional fishing time. The previous three-year average harvest and participation rates indicate sufficient numbers of salmon available to allow an increase in the pre-season schedule fishing time for this fishing period. It is anticipated that the fish passing the sonar during this period will be available in the Chitina Subdistrict after July 15th. The surplus of fish during the past week and projected counts for the remainder of the season, justifies opening the Chitina Subdistrict fishery to continuous 7 days a week fishing for the remainder of the season. If the actual sonar numbers indicate below projected escapement during any weekly periods in the future, fishing time will be reduced accordingly.

DISTRIBUTION:

Office of the Governor; Lt. Governor; Commissioner, Department of Fish and Game; Director, Division of Sport Fish; Regional Supervisors, Division of Sport and Commercial Fisheries; Members of Board of Fisheries; Director, Fish and Wildlife Protection; Detachment Commander and Area Officer, Board of Fisheries Members; Local Fish and Game Advisory Chairman; Anchorage, Cook Inlet, Delta, Fairbanks and Palmer Area Biologists, Division of Sport Fish and Commercial Fisheries; Juneau, Region I; Anchorage, Region II; Fairbanks, Region III; and selected area newspapers, radio and television stations.